



spotfin shiner

Cyprinella spiloptera

| | |
|------------------|------------------------|
| Kingdom: | Animalia |
| Division/Phylum: | Chordata - vertebrates |
| Class: | Osteichthyes |
| Family: | Cypriniformes |
| Order: | Cyprinidae |

Features

The spotfin shiner is moderately slender with a body that is flattened side to side. It has a steel blue back and sides with silver shading and dark spots where scales attach that form a diamond design. There is a black blotch in the back portion of the dorsal fin. The mouth is slightly sub-terminal. Breeding males may have bright yellow anal fins with an olive green back that shades to purple and blue. Like other native minnows, it has no scales on the head and the soft dorsal fin has fewer than 10 rays. Adults reach three inches long.

Natural History

The spotfin shiner is very common in streams in north-central and northeast Iowa, but much less common in western and southern Iowa streams. It prefers habitats with shallow, swift water over sand flats. Adults eat insects, plant material, and some small fish. It spawns over irregular surfaces where eggs are deposited in small crevices where they are

safe during incubation. Spawning may occur between May and August. Spotfins are displaced by redbfin shiners when habitat is altered by increased turbidity and siltation (deposition of fine soil).

Habitats

interior rivers and streams

Iowa Status

common; native

Iowa Range

statewide except the southwest corner of Iowa

Bibliography

Iowa Department of Natural Resources. 2001.
Biodiversity of Iowa: Aquatic Habitats CD-ROM.